

(3)

THE FUNDAMENTAL
L A W S,
S T A T U T E S,
A N D
C O N S T I T U T I O N S
O F T H E
Ancient and most benevolent Order
O F T H E
F R I E N D L Y B R O T H E R S
O F
St. *P A T R I C K*.

Maximè autem perturbantur officia in amicitiiis: quibus et non tribuere, quod rectè possis, et tribuere, quod non sit æquum, contra officium est. Sed hujus generis tatiùs breve, et non difficile præceptum est. Quæ enim videntur utilia, honores, divitiæ, voluptates, et cætera generis ejusdem, hæc amicitiae nunquam anteponendæ sunt. At nequè contra rempublicam, nequè contra jusjurandum ac fidem, amici sui causâ vir bonus faciet.

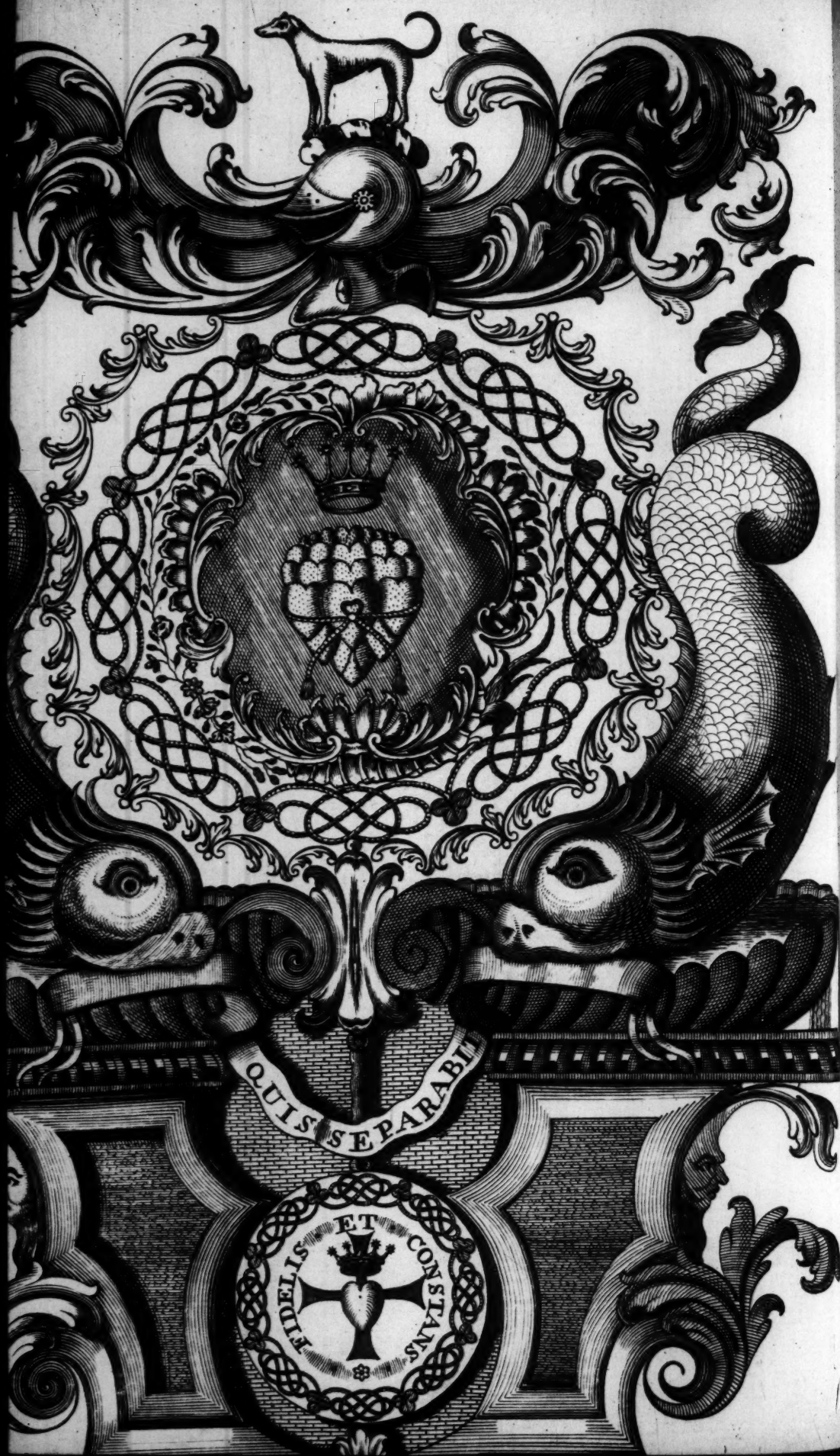
CICERO.

D U B L I N :

Printed in the YEAR, M,DCC,LII.



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INTRODUCTION.

MAN being in his natural State, the most naked and helpless of all Creatures, is forced to fly to Society for Assistance; where, by Means of the Benefits mutually paid and received, his Weakness is protected, his Infirmities relieved, and all his Wants comfortably supplied: He therefore, that is the best Member of Society, is consequently the best Man. But as no one can justly be said to extend his benevolent Regard to a Million, who never loved an Individual of the Number, (Man being found to rise in his Affections from Particulars to Generals,) it is hoped it may prove somewhat conducive to the Good of Society *in general*, to promote and encourage among Men, the just Observance of private and singular Friendships: whence, growing more humane, their Hearts enlarge, taking in at first particular Societies and Ranks of Men, till, dilated by insensible Gradations, at length they overflow with generous Sentiments of Candor, Benevolence and Friendship for all Mankind. A Heart thus tempered is prepared for the easy Reception of all other Virtues. For this divine and glorious Purpose, the ancient and most benevolent Order of the FRIENDLY BROTHERS, diffused through the Universe, was first instituted; who, for the better Regulation of the Order, and to establish a mutual Good-Will and Correspondence among them, have enacted, that the following *fundamental Laws, Statutes, and Constitutions*, shall be for ever inviolably observed and kept sacred, by all the Members of this *ancient and most benevolent Order*.

INTRO-
DUCTION.

THE FUNDAMENTAL
L A W S,
S T A T U T E S,
 A N D
C O N S T I T U T I O N S
 O F T H E
 Ancient and most benevolent Order of the
F R I E N D L Y B R O T H E R S
 O F
St. P A T R I C K.

Title of
the Order.

Number.

St. Pa-
trick their
Patron.

Degrees of
the Order,
Regulars
and Per-
fects.

I. **T**HE ancient and most benevolent Or-
 der of the **F R I E N D L Y B R O T H E R S**,
 consisteth of an unlimited Number of **M E M -**
B E R S, distinguished by the Word **F R I E N D L Y**
 inserted between their Christian and Surnames;
 who, in Honour of **I R E L A N D**, where this Or-
 der was first instituted, and hath long flou-
 rished, have put themselves under the Patron-
 age of **S t. P A T R I C K**, and are therefore styled
 the **F R I E N D L Y B R O T H E R S** of **S t. P A T R I C K**.

II. **T**HIS Order is divided into two Classes.
 One comprehending all the Members of the
 Order, styled the **R E G U L A R F R I E N D L Y B R O -**
T H E R S. The other consisting of such Regulars,
 as

as for their well-tryed Fidelity and Friendship, have been initiated into the grand and solemn Myſteries of the Order, and are ſtyled THE APPROVED AND PERFECT FRIENDLY BROTHERS.

III. THE Aſſemblies of the Brethren are called KNOTS, ſignifying the indiffoluble Tie of Love and Friendship wherewith they are mutually bound. Knot, it's Signification.

IV. THE Principal of this Order, who is annually elective out of the approved and perfect FRIENDLY BROTHERS, in all public Acts of the Order, is ſtyled *His Benevolence the grand Preſident of the ancient and moſt benevolent Order of the friendly Brothers*. He is during his Office to uſe the Word FRIENDLY, inſtead of his Surname, and hath the Privilege of preſiding in any KNOT which he honours with his Preſence. He is conſtantly to reſide in the Kingdom of IRELAND, and if he ſhall at any Time, without the Conſent and Approbation of the GENERAL GRAND KNOT, abſent himſelf above ſix Months, his Office is thereby vacated, and the Order may proceed to a new Election. Grand Preſident, annually elective. His Title.

V. THE Legislative Power of this Order, is lodged in the GENERAL GRAND KNOT, which is compoſed of all regular and perfect friendly Brothers, wherein the GRAND PRESIDENT of the Order, or his VICE PRESIDENT by him ſpecially authoriſed, ſhall always preſide. Is conſtantly to reſide in Ireland.

VI. His Benevolence the GRAND PRESIDENT hath alſo a Council appointed for him, for the better Regulation and Management of General Grand Knot, of whom compoſed. Their Power. Vice Preſident, Select Grand Knot.

the grand Affairs of the Order, called the SE-
LECT GRAND KNOT, consisting only of *ap-
proved and perfect friendly Brothers*; in which
alone is lodged the Power of admitting ap-
proved and perfect friendly Brothers.

Of whom
composed,
Their
Power.

Principal
Knots.

VII. THE GRAND PRESIDENT, with the
Approbation of the GENERAL GRAND KNOT,
is impowered to constitute, a PRINCIPAL KNOT in every County, City, and great
Town in the Kingdom of IRELAND, the Pre-
sident of which shall be called *The President of
the Principal Knot* of that Place; who also shall
be impowered, with the Approbation of his
Principal Knot, to constitute, one or
more KNOTS within his Jurisdiction, which
shall be subordinate to the PRINCIPAL KNOT,
the President of which shall be called, Presi-
dent of the first, second, or third Knot of that
Place, according to the Seniority of their
Institution.

Subor-
dinate
Knots.

Principal
and Sub-
ordinate
Knots, of
whom
composed.

VIII. EVERY PRINCIPAL KNOT shall consist
of such FRIENDLY BROTHERS, as by unani-
mous Consent, have been admitted therein;
together with all Presidents, Secretaries and
Treasurers of subordinate Knots, within that
Jurisdiction. And every Subordinate Knot
shall consist of such Brothers only as have been
particularly admitted into that Knot.

Grand
President
to visit
Principal
Knots.

IX. THE GRAND PRESIDENT, or his VICE
PRESIDENT, is impowered to visit and inspect
every PRINCIPAL KNOT in the Kingdom of
IRELAND. And every President of a PRINCIPAL KNOT, or his Deputy, may exercise the
same Power over all the Subordinate Knots
within

within his Jurisdiction, and shall preside in every such Knot at which he shall be present.

X. THE GRAND PRESIDENT shall have two Secretaries, called, the principal Secretaries of the Order; one to officiate in the GENERAL GRAND KNOT, and the other in the SELECT GRAND KNOT; and every Knot shall have a Secretary and a Treasurer. All Secretaries must keep Books, wherein proper Entries shall be made of all the Proceedings of their respective KNOTS.

Secretaries and Treasurers.

XI. THE GRAND PRESIDENT being constantly to reside in the Kingdom of IRELAND, for the better Regulation and Government of the Order diffused through the Universe, shall be empowered, with the Approbation of the GENERAL GRAND KNOT, to appoint one of the *approved and perfect friendly Brothers* to preside in each foreign Kingdom or Principality, who shall be styled, *His Benevolence the Grand President of the Kingdom or Principality in which he resides*; and he shall have the same Knots, Councils, Powers, Precedences and Privileges, that the GRAND PRESIDENT of the Order, enjoyeth in the Kingdom of IRELAND.

Grand President of a foreign Kingdom.

His Title.

XII. EVERY GRAND PRESIDENT and PRESIDENT throughout the Universe, shall summon and convene their KNOTS, on the 17th Day of *March* annually, that being the Anniversary Festival of St. PATRICK, the Patron of the Order; when all the Members shall appear in the Ensigns of the Order, being a golden Medal, on which shall be impressed, St. *Patrick's* Cross, fixed in a Heart, over which is a Crown, the Whole being set round with an emblematic

Knots to assemble St. *Patrick's* Day.

Medal.

Arms.

Crest.

Grand
President
to be
elected,
and My-
steries
settled
that Day.

And all
other Of-
ficers to be
elected.

Presidents
to write for
annual In-
structions.

emblematic Knot, embellished with Trefoil or Shamrogue Leaves, and this Motto FIDELIS ET CONSTANS, implying Fidelity, and Constancy, in Religion, and Loyalty, and Friendship. On the Reverse shall be impressed, the Arms of the Order, *vid.* A Group of Hearts in Fess, Or. (as an Emblem of the strict Union of the Members of the Order,) charged with a celestial Crown of the same, in Chief, in a Field Vert. (the Reward of their Benevolence and Fidelity.) Round the Shield, an endless Knot, set with Shamrogue Leaves, the Mantling proper, and two emblematic Dolphins, their Faces downwards, Argent. a Label issuing from their Mouths, with this Motto QUIS SEPARABIT. This Medal shall be worn pendant to a green Ribbon. And for the Crest on a Helmet and Wreath of their Colours, a Wolf Dog standing proper.

XIII. ON the 17th Day of *March*, also, THE GENERAL GRAND KNOT, shall annually proceed to elect a GRAND PRESIDENT of the Order, who shall enter upon his Office the 1st Day of *May* following. And upon the same Day annually, the SELECT GRAND KNOT shall settle the Mysteries of the Order for the ensuing Year. Upon the same Day annually, all other KNOTS shall proceed to elect their respective Officers, who shall also enter upon their Offices the 1st Day of *May* following. And at the same Time all GRAND PRESIDENTS in foreign Parts, and PRESIDENTS of PRINCIPAL KNOTS in the Kingdom of IRELAND, shall, by themselves, or their Secretaries, write to the GRAND PRESIDENT, or his Secretary, for their annual Instructions; which, when they have received, they shall communicate to all the KNOTS in their respective

respective Jurisdictions, who shall apply for the same. And if it shall so happen, that the GRAND PRESIDENT, or any other PRESIDENT, shall, by Means of Sicknefs, Absence, or Negligence, fail to summon their respective KNOTS upon that Day, or if any PRESIDENT shall happen to die, their Secretaries may convene them; and if they also shall neglect, the Members of such KNOTS may of themselves assemble, at the most usual Place of Meeting, and proceed to the Business of the Day, as if their PRESIDENTS had been actually present: and the KNOTS offending herein, are discontinued, till restored upon proper Application to their immediate Superiors. But, if the GENERAL GRAND KNOT shall neglect to come to an Election, upon the Day and in the Manner aforesaid, the GRAND PRESIDENT for the Time being, and all the Officers of that KNOT, shall hold over for one Year more, and so on for ever. And at the same Time that every KNOT writes to their immediate Superiors for their annual Instructions, they are to send exact Lists of the several Members admitted into their respective KNOTS, during the last Year, which shall be registered in the GENERAL GRAND KNOT.

When Secretaries may convene KNOTS.

Lists of the Members to be registered.

XIV. EVERY KNOT lawfully constituted, hath a Power of admitting REGULAR FRIENDLY BROTHERS into the Order. And no Brother, who is not impowered, as these Statutes direct, shall presume to initiate any one whatsoever. And Persons desirous to be admitted, shall petition the PRESIDENT of the KNOT of which they would become Members; which Petition shall be handed in by a Brother, and shall be treated according to the particular Rules of that KNOT.

None without Authority shall admit Members.

Method of Admission.

XV. No

New
Members
not to
treat, but
to be
treated.

XV. No new-admitted Brother shall be permitted to treat or feast the KNOT, into which he is admitted; but on the contrary, every new Brother, at the Time of his being admitted a Novice, shall be treated By the KNOT.

By-Laws.

XVI. EVERY PRINCIPAL KNOT hath a Right to make By-Laws to bind itself, and every *Subordinate Knot* within its Jurisdiction: And every *Subordinate Knot* may make By-Laws to bind itself; provided the Laws so made by either of them, shall not be repugnant to these the Statutes and fundamental Laws of the Order.

Brothers
to obey
the Sum-
mons of
their
Knots.

XVII. EVERY FRIENDLY BROTHER shall obey the Summons of his KNOT, provided he hath been served therewith twenty-four Hours before the Time appointed, and is within three Miles of the Place of Meeting, and is not hindered by any lawful and important Occasion. And if any Member shall absent himself, he shall give a faithful Account to his Brethren, of the Reasons that detained him, and shall submit himself to the Censure of the KNOT.

Proceed-
ings to be
unani-
mous.

XVIII. ALL the Proceedings of this Order shall be unanimous, except in the Election of Officers, which shall be determined by a Majority.

Members
to be
Christians.

XIX. No Person whatsoever shall be admitted into this Order, who does not profess himself a Christian: nor shall any religious Debate be admitted in any KNOT.

XX. ALL

XX. ALL profane Cursing and Swearing shall at all Times be avoided by the FRIENDLY BROTHERS: and every Member who shall err herein in any KNOT, or in the Presence of a FRIENDLY BROTHER, shall for every Offence, pay Two-Pence to the Treasurer, for the Use of the Poor, as a small Memorial of his Crime.

Cursing
and
Swearing
forbidden.

XXI. If any Member of this Order affirmeth any Thing upon the Word of a Friendly, he is religiously to tell the Truth.

Word of a
Friendly
to be kept
sacred.

XXII. If any *continued friendly Brother* shall impart any Secret to a Brother, *under the Seal of friendly Secrecy*, the same shall not, in any Manner, be revealed, without the Consent of such Brother, provided such Secret containeth nothing, contrary to the Laws of God, or of the Land, and that it may be every Way lawful to keep the same.

Friendly
Secrecy to
be ob-
served in-
volute.

XXIII. If any Member of this Order findeth a *continued friendly Brother* of the same, in any Distress, he is to afford him all lawful Assistance to the utmost of his Abilities: But herein his own friendly Conscience is to judge, how far he is to extend his Benevolence.

Brothers
to relieve
one an-
other in
Distress.

XXIV. NO FRIENDLY BROTHER shall affront or quarrel with a *continued Member* of the Order. But, as the best of Mankind, in their unguarded Moments, are subject to Passions, if any Member of this Order, through the Frailty of human Nature, should have the Misfortune so far to forget the Love he owes his Brother, and the Obedience due to these Statutes, as to proceed to Anger with a *continued*

Shall not
quarrel.

But refer
his Dif-
ferences
to his
Knot.

Who shall
judge im-
partially.

The
Names of
disconti-
nued
Members
to be com-
municated
to the
whole Or-
der.

To profess
universal
Benevo-
lence and
general
Philan-
thropy.

nued friendly Brother, and disturb the Peace and Tranquility of the Order, he shall not presume to decide his own Quarrel, according to the Laws of pretended Honour, by the barbarous Practice of Duelling, unknown to the politest and bravest Nations; but shall peaceably and with due Obedience, submit his Differences to the Decision of his KNOT, who shall cause the Offender to make sufficient and honourable Attonement for his Error, and the Parties on both Sides shall renew their Friendship, and, in all Points, submit themselves to the friendly Admonition and Determination of their Brethren, who shall judge on such Occasions, without Prejudice or Favour.

XXV. ANY grand Breach of the known Rules of Friendship to a CONTINUED BROTHER, or a general Disrespect of these Laws, shall be punished with perpetual Discontinuance, whereby the Offender is deprived of all the Benefits of this Order, and his Name shall be made known to the GRAND PRESIDENT, who shall communicate the same to all GRAND PRESIDENTS of foreign Kingdoms, and all PRESIDENTS of PRINCIPAL KNOTS in the Kingdom of IRELAND, who are likewise to communicate the same to all the KNOTS within their Jurisdictions; that so Care may be taken, that no Person so totally discontinued, may ever again be admitted into this *ancient and most benevolent Order*.

XXVI. FINALLY, as the FRIENDLY BROTHERS profess themselves to be Lovers of all Mankind, they shall therefore endeavour, by their Advice and Example, to promote and encourage among Men, the Practice of all the so-
cial

cial Virtues, and to let their Humanity, Benevolence and Charity extend so universally to all that are distressed and miserable, as to render themselves in the End, to be deservedly esteemed *approved and perfect friendly Brothers of the ancient and most benevolent Order of the friendly Brothers of St. PATRICK.*

F I N I S.

*The FIRST LESSON appointed for
the Instruction of this ORDER.*

- I. **A** FRIEND loveth at all Times, and a *Prov.* 17.
BROTHER is born for Adversity. 17.
- II. A MAN that hath Friends; must shew 18. 24.
himself friendly : and there is a FRIEND that
sticketh closer than a BROTHER.
- III. SWEET Language will multiply Friends: *Eccles.*
and a fair speaking Tongue will increase kind 6. 5.
Greetings.
- IV. A FAITHFUL FRIEND is a strong De- 14.
fence : and he that hath found such a one,
hath found a Treasure.
- V. NOTHING doth countervail a faithful 15.
Friend, and his Excellency is invaluable.
- VI. A FAITHFUL FRIEND is a Medicine of 16.
Life, and they that fear the LORD shall find
him.
- VII. WHOSO feareth the Lord shall direct 17.
his Friendship aright: for as he is, so shall his
Neighbour be also.

VIII. CHANGE

Ecclus.
7. 18.

VIII. CHANGE not a FRIEND for any Good, by no Means: neither a FAITHFUL BROTHER for the Gold of *Opbir*.

9. 10.

IX. FORSAKE not an old Friend, for the new is not comparable to him: a new Friend is as new Wine; when it is old, thou shalt drink it with Pleasure.

22. 25.

X. I WILL not be ashamed to defend a Friend, neither will I hide myself from him.

26.

XI. AND if any Evil happen unto me by him, every one that heareth it will beware of him.

27. 16.

XII. WHOSO discovereth Secrets, looseth his Credit; and shall never find a Friend to his Mind.

17.

XIII. LOVE thy Friend and be faithful unto him: but if thou bewrayest his Secrets, follow no more after him.

18.

XIV. FOR as a Man hath destroyed his Enemy, so hast thou lost the Love of thy Neighbour.

19.

XV. As one that letteth a Bird go out of his Hand, so hast thou let thy Neighbour go.

20.

XVI. FOLLOW after him no more, for he is too far off; he is as a Roe escaped out of the Snare.

21.

XVII. As for a Wound it may be bound up; and after reviling there may be Reconcilement: but he that betrayeth Secrets is without Hope.

37. 6.

XVIII. FORGET not thy FRIEND in thy Mind, and be not unmindful of him in thy Riches.

28. 8.

XIX. ABSTAIN from *Strife*, and thou shalt diminish thy Sins.

Prov.

17. 14.

XX. THE Beginning of *Strife* is as the letting out of Water, thou knowest not where it may end.

XXI. Go

XXI. Go not forth hastily to strive, least *Prov.*
thou know not what to do in the End thereof, 25. 8.
when thy Neighbour hath put thee to Shame.

XXII. DEBATE thy Cause with thy Neigh- | 9.
bour himself, and discover not a *Secret* to an-
other.

XXIII. ADMONISH a *Friend*, it may be he *Ecclef.*
hath not done it, and if he have done it, that 19. 13.
he do it no more.

XXIV. ADMONISH a *Friend*, it may be he 14.
hath not said it, and if he hath, that he speak
it not again.

XXV. ADMONISH a *Friend*, for many Times 15.
it is a Slander, and believe not every Tale.

XXVI. ACCUSTOM not thy Mouth to *Swear-* 23. 9.
ing: neither use thyself to the naming of the
Holy One.

XXVII. FOR as a Servant that is continually 10.
beaten, shall not be without a black Mark: so
he that sweareth and nameth GOD continually,
shall not be faultless.

XXVIII. A MAN that useth much *Swearing*, 11.
shall be filled with Iniquity, and the Plague
shall never depart from his House: if he shall
offend, his Sin shall be upon him, and if he
acknowledge not his Sin, he maketh a double
Offence; and if he swear in vain, he shall not
be innocent, but his House shall be full of Ca-
lamities.

The End of the FIRST LESSON.

The SECOND LESSON.

I. **A** NEW Commandment I give unto you, *John*
that you love one another, as I have 13. 34-
loved you.

II. By

John 13. 35. II. By this shall all Men know, that you are my Disciples, if ye have Love one for another.

15. 13. III. GREATER Love hath no Man than this, that a Man lay down his Life for his Friends.

John Ep. 4. 7. IV. BELOVED let us love one another : for Love is of GOD; and every one that loveth is born of GOD, and knoweth GOD.

8. V. HE that loveth not, knoweth not GOD.

16. VI. FOR GOD is LOVE; and he that dwelleth in LOVE, dwelleth in GOD, and GOD in him.

18. VII. THERE is no Fear in Love, but perfect Love casteth out Fear, because Fear hath Torment, he that feareth is not made perfect in Love.

19. VIII. WE love him, because he first loved us.

20. IX. IF any Man say, I love GOD, and hateth his BROTHER, he is a Liar: For he that loveth not his BROTHER, whom he hath seen, how can he love GOD, whom he hath not seen?

21. X. AND this Commandment we have from him, that he who loveth GOD, love his BROTHER also.

Galatians 6. 1. XI. IF a BROTHER be overtaken in a Fault, restore such a one in the Spirit of Meekness.

Ephes. 4. 31. XII. LET all Bitterness, and Wrath, and Clamour, and Evil-speaking, be put away from you, with all Malice.

32. XIII. AND be kind to one another, tender hearted, forbearing and forgiving one another, even as GOD for CHRIST'S Sake hath forgiven you.

6 DE 38

James 5. 12. XIV. BUT above all Things, my Brethren, SWEAR NOT at all, neither by Heaven, neither by Earth, neither by an other Oath. But let your

Matthew 5. 37. Communication be yea, yea, nay, nay : for whatsoever is more than these, cometh of Evil.

The End of the SECOND LESSON.

